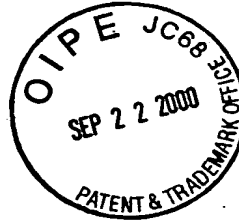


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PATENT
Docket No. 10517/16

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors : Seiji MIZUNO
Serial No. : 09/232,498
Filed : January 15, 1999
For : SEPARATOR FOR FUEL CELL AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR THE SAME
Group Art Unit : 1745
Examiner : M. RUTHKOSKY



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Washington D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 19, 2000, the Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to clearly define the identities of the components of the claimed invention. In addition, claims 1-3, 5-8 and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,956,131 to Shigeta, *et al.* ("Shigeta") in view of WO99/13989, and further in view of JP 69042781. Finally, claims 4, 9 and 10 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but are identified as being allowable if rewritten to incorporate all the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

The Applicant has reviewed the July 19, 2000 Office Action, and respectfully submits the following remarks in response thereto. The Applicant is grateful for the Examiners' indication that claims 4, 9 and 10 would be allowable if amended to incorporate the limitations of their respective base and intervening claims. The Applicant respectfully